Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 01 PARIS 21029 022037Z 71 **ACTION EUR-25** INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /126 W ----- 123408 PR 021826Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2299 AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY USMISSION NATO PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 21029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MILI, PFOR, EFIN, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ATTITUDE ON NATO BURDEN SHARING

REF STATE 150394

1. WE ARE STRUCK BY THE APPARENT INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN JOBERT'S REPORTEDLY FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN NATO CONFIDENTIAL

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BURDEN SHARING EFFORT (BONN 9072, BONN 10939), AND THE CON-

SISTENTLY NEGATIVE LINE TAKEN BY GOF WORKING LEVELS IN PARS (PARIS 15581, PARIS 16233, PARIS 17098).

- 2. IT MAY BE THAT FRENCH ARE IN PROCESS OF SORTING OUT MANNER IN WHICH GOF MIGHT JOIN BURDEN SHARING, ALTHOUGH BONN MESSAGES ARE SOLE INDICATION WE HAVE SEEN OF THIS POSSIBILITY.
- 3. WITHOUT FORECLOSING CHANCE THAT FRENCH MAY HAVE UNDERGONE A CHANGE OF HEART (OR TACTICS) SINCE REPORTS IN PARIS CABLES CITED ABOVE, WE REMAIN SKEPTICAL THAT FRENCH ARE LIKELY TO JOIN IN NATO EFFORT, EITHER THROUGH DIRECT BUDGETARY SUPPORT OR OFFSETS.
- 4. NEVERTHELESS, WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PURSUE WITH FRG SUBJECT OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION. WE SUGGEST THIS BE DONE IN LOW KEY, WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING AS PRECISE A REPORT AS POSSIBLE OF WHAT JOBERT ACTUALLY SAID. FOR EXAMPLE,IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER, IN THE THIRD SENTENCE OF BONN 9072, PARA 4, JOBERT HAS IN MIND THE EC NINE OR NATO AS HE FORUM FOR EXAMINING POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN BURDEN SHARING. WE ASSUME THE GERMANS WOULD CARRY OUT THIS PROBING EFFORT WITH RESTRAINT, SO THAT FRENCH ARE NOT GIVEN ANY PRETEXT FOR RECOILING FROM POSSIBLE ROLE IN NATO BURDEN SHARING EFFORT ON BASIS OF "US INTERFERENCE." TOWARD THAT END, WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY BONN EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO "MADE IN EUROPE" LABEL.

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